Amendments to the Claims:

1-24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented): A method of embedding auxiliary information in data, wherein the auxiliary information is not lost with compression of the embedded data, the embedded data initially comprising a non-compressed form including the auxiliary information embedded therein, said method comprising:

(a) retrieving the auxiliary information from the non-compressed form of the embedded data;

(b) compressing the non-compressed form of the embedded data; and

(c) embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the compressed embedded data, whereby the compressed embedded data comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein.

26. (previously presented): A method of embedding auxiliary information in data, wherein the auxiliary information is not lost with decompression of the data from a compressed form to a non-compressed form, and wherein the compressed form includes the auxiliary information, said method comprising:

(a) retrieving the auxiliary information from the compressed form of the data;

(b) decompressing the compressed form to yield the non-compressed form; and

(c) steganographically embedding the auxiliary information in the non-compressed form whereby the non-compressed form of the data comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein.

27-28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented): The method of claim 25 wherein the compression comprises encoding.

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented): The method of claim 26 wherein the decompressing comprises decoding.

33. (previously presented): A method comprising:

retrieving auxiliary information from a data signal, wherein the auxiliary information is encoded in the data signal, and wherein the auxiliary information is retrieved from the data signal while the data signal comprises a non-compressed form;

compressing the data signal; and

embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the compressed data signal,

wherein the compressed data signal comprises the retrieved auxiliary information.

34. (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the retrieved

auxiliary information is steganographically retrieved from the non-compressed data

signal.

35. (previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein the retrieved

auxiliary information is embedded in the compressed data signal in the form of a

steganographic watermark.

36. (previously presented): The method of claim 33 wherein the data signal

includes the auxiliary information embedded therein during said compressing step.

37. (previously presented): A method comprising:

retrieving auxiliary information from a data signal, wherein the auxiliary

information is encoded in the data signal, and wherein the auxiliary information is

retrieved from the data signal while the data signal comprises a compressed form;

decompressing the compressed data signal to yield a de-compressed data signal;

and

embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the de-compressed data signal,

wherein the decompressed data signal comprises digital data, whereby the de-compressed

data signal comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein.

38. (currently amended): The method of claim 37, wherein the retrieved

auxiliary information is steganographically embedded encoded in the de-compressed data

signal.

39. (currently amended): The method of claim 37, wherein the retrieved

auxiliary information is embedded encoded in the de-compressed data signal in the form

of a steganographic watermark.

40. (currently amended): A method comprising:

retrieving auxiliary information from an original data signal, wherein the auxiliary

information is encoded in the original data signal;

performing a transformation on the original data signal to create a transformed

data signal; and

embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the transformed data signal,

wherein the transformed data signal comprises the retrieved auxiliary information.

41. (currently amended): The method of claim 40 wherein the auxiliary

information is steganographically encoded in retrieved from the original data signal.

42. (currently amended): The method of claim 41 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically <u>embedded</u> <s>encoded</s> in the transformed data signal.

43. (currently amended): The method of claim 40 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically <u>embedded</u> <s>encoded</s> in the transformed data signal.

44. (previously presented): The method of claim 40 wherein the transformation causes the auxiliary information not to be detectable from the transformed data signal.

45. (previously presented): The method of claim 44 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically retrieved from the original data signal.

46. (currently amended): The method of claim 45 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically <u>embedded</u> <s>encoded</s> in the transformed data signal.

47. (currently amended): The method of claim 44 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically <u>embedded</u> <s>encoded</s> in the transformed data signal.

48. (previously presented): The method of claim 40 wherein the embedding of

the retrieved auxiliary information in the transformed data signal uses a robust

embedding method for the transformed data signal that enables detection of the auxiliary

information by a detector.

49. (currently amended): The method of claim 48 wherein the auxiliary

information is steganographically <u>embedded</u> ~~encoded~~ in the transformed data signal.

50. (previously presented): The method of claim 49 wherein the auxiliary

information is steganographically retrieved from the original data signal.

51. (previously presented): A method of embedding auxiliary information in data

in which the auxiliary information is not lost with decompression of the data from a

compressed form to a non-compressed form, wherein the compressed form includes the

auxiliary information, said method comprising:

(a) retrieving the auxiliary information from the compressed form;

(b) decompressing the compressed form to yield the non-compressed form;

and

(c) ~~(b)~~ embedding the auxiliary information in the non-compressed form, wherein

the non-compressed form of the data comprises the auxiliary information embedded

therein, and wherein the non-compressed form including the auxiliary information

embedded therein comprises digital data.

52. (new): The method of claim 40 wherein the auxiliary information is
encoded in the original data signal as header data.

53. (new): The method of claim 43 wherein the auxiliary information is
encoded in the original data signal as header data.